

MEETING OF  
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, March 17, 2010, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Edwin Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Lisa Embert (representing Velda Jones-Potter, State Treasurer)
L. Allen Messick, Jr., Treasurer	Kevin Coyle (representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC)
G. Ray Staats	

Absent: Lyn Davenport, Steven L. Ditmer, and Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McGrath, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, Kathi Spangler, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: Michael Parkowski, Esq., Austin Short, Michael Valenti, and Mr. Robert Edgell.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. with prayer.

I. Progress Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that we have a total of 1,034 farms in preservation districts totaling 150,285 acres, with a total of 564 farms under agricultural easements totaling 93,935 acres at a cost of \$158,134,141. For PDR 15 there are a total of 54 farms, comprising 3,985 acres, with a value of \$52,263,437. For PDR 16, there are a total of 26 farms, comprising 2,435 acres, with a value of \$33,895,414. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 36 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,601 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 871 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804.

II. Forestland Preservation Areas Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Onuska Forestland Preservation Area, ID#F-K-08-12-088F. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility and Final approval the Onuska Forestland Preservation Area, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Edgell Forestland Preservation Area, ID#F-S-09-12-034N-036. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility and Final approval the Edgell Forestland Preservation Area, seconded by Edwin Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

III. District Final Approval:

1. Jones Church District, ID#S-09-08-255. After discussion, **Allen Messick, Jr. moved to accept for final approval the Jones Church District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

IV. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Onusko Expansion of the Mitchell-Quillen District, ID#K-08-12-088F. After discussion, **Edwin Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Onusko Expansion of the Mitchell-Quillen District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. M & S Welfley Expansion of the Stayton's District, ID#K-09-12-205I. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the M & S Welfley Expansion of the Stayton's District, seconded by Edwin Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**
3. C.M. Welfley Expansion of the Stayton's District, ID#K-09-12-205J. After discussion, **Lisa Embert moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the C.M. Welfley Expansion of the Stayton's District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

4. Dulaney Manor Farms #2 Expansion of the Naudian Tract District, ID#N-10-01-132C. After discussion, **Allen Messick, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Dulaney Manor Farms #2 Expansion of the Naudian Tract District, seconded by Ray Staats. Motion unanimously approved.**

5. Sharps Mill Expansion of the William G. Passwater District, ID#S-09-11-170C. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Sharps Mill Expansion of the William G. Passwater District, seconded by Edwin Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

6. Edgell Expansion of the Rust District, ID#S-09-12-034N. After discussion, **Allen Messick, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Edgell Expansion of the Rust District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval – Contingent Sale:

1. Coon Den Farm #1 Expansion of the Beaver Creek Farms District, ID#K-10-02-093H. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Coon Den Farm #1 Expansion of the Beaver Creek Farms District contingent upon sale of the property, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. Coon Den Farm #2 Expansion of the Beaver Creek Farms District, ID#K-10-02-093I. After discussion, **Allen Messick, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Coon Den Farm #2 Expansion of the Beaver Creek Farms District contingent upon sale of the property, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. JC Wells & Sons, LP Expansion of the Bennett, Sr & Carlsten District, ID#S-10-03-160A. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the JC Wells & Sons, LP Expansion of the Bennett, Sr & Carlsten District contingent upon sale of the property, seconded by Allen Messick, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto – Secretary Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above Forestland Preservation Areas, the District and the Expansions.

VII. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

VIII. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the February 17, 2010, minutes. Hearing none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the February minutes, seconded by Edwin Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

IX. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick then presented the Financial Statement for the month of February 2010, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of February 28, 2010, \$241,070.14 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. We received \$17.19 from rollback taxes and \$198.00 interest income, and \$245.00 from license plates. Expenditures for the month of February totaled \$34,891.60. After discussion, **Edwin Kee moved to approve the February 2010 financial statement as presented, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

X. Executive Session – Mr. Parkowski indicated that there was no need for an executive session.

XI. Other Business:

Michael McGrath had some items for the Board concerning projects he was working on:

1. Ducks Unlimited. Mr. McGrath has a meeting next month concerning possible funding thorough a NOAA Grant for farmland along the coast. This is under a project NOAA has to mitigate against sea level rise by placing easements on farmland that may be flooded along coast lines to keep such land from being developed. It would be only for land along the coast and would be funding for the preservation of parts of farms. We would need to find the funding to preserve the rest of the farm.
2. Clean Water Act. This would be a possible source of funding for Forestland Preservation Areas. Through the Clean Water Act Board there are funds to preserve headwater forests. Working with the Nature Conservancy such funds may be approved and could provide forestland preservation area funds.
3. Wilson Farm – Scott Blaier informed the Board that the Magee family has formally taken over tenancy of the farm. tree cutting is being looked into (there are trees which need to come down.) The septic tank is being taken out, and title search is complete and a sign is being ordered to commemorate the ownership and donation of the farm.
4. Alison Award. Mr. McGrath is supporting the ward of the Alison award to Josh Dukes because of his research projects for the Foundation.
5. Post Cards to Landowners - Robin West stated that the cards have gone out to landowners asking if they want an appraisal.
6. PDR 16 Appraisals – we are now starting PDR 16 appraisals.
7. New Soil Designations – The new soil designations provide us with better soils maps for the Foundation reports/maps for our preservation properties.
8. Mr. McGrath will be speaking at Yale University concerning the Foundation and its history.
9. Chairman Garey mentioned a sale of preserved land owned by Mr. Alexander.
10. Secretary Edwin Kee mentioned that Utah is starting their farmland preservation program and he has sent materials to them about our program.

A suggestion was made that we send out letters to the Counties concerning possible funding from them for our PDR 15 round, and Mike McGrath mentioned that we are trying to keep our old 50-50 match Federal money for PDR 15.

XII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on April 21, 2010 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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William Vanderwende.  
Vice Chairman